

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/687,062

Examiner

Tho D. Ta

Applicant(s)

DELPRETE ET AL.

Art Unit

2833

PCW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to interview summary dated 5/10/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 8-10 and 16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/22/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert Kapalka on 05/10/04.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

Page 8, line 22, change "oppoing" to --opposing--.

Page 10, line 25, change "silicon" to --silicone--.

In the claims:

1. (Amended) An electrical connector comprising:
an insulative substrate having first and second pluralities of openings therethrough, said first and second pluralities of openings being arranged in first and second array patterns, said substrate having first and second opposing surfaces;

a plurality of conductive elastomeric contact members mounted in respective ones of said first plurality of openings, each of said conductive elastomeric contact members having first and second opposing end surfaces [and a generally circumferential recess defining opposing shoulders, said substrate being disposed at least partially within the recess between said opposing shoulders of each of said plurality of conductive elastomeric contact members to mount said members to said substrate in a contact array, said first and second contact member end surfaces being] that are spaced first and second distances from said first and second opposing substrate surfaces respectively [when said contact members are mounted within said substrate]; and

a plurality of non-conductive stops mounted in respective ones of said second plurality of openings, each of said non-conductive stops having first and second opposing end surfaces [and a generally circumferential recess defining opposing shoulders, each of said stops having a circumferential recess defining opposing shoulders, said substrate being disposed at least partially within the recess between said opposing shoulders of said stops to mount said stops to said substrate, said first and second stop end surfaces disposed] that are spaced third and fourth distances from said first and second opposing substrate surfaces respectively [when said stops are mounted within said substrate], wherein said third distance is less than said first distance and said fourth

distance is less than said second distance, and wherein each of said stops is spaced from adjacent ones of said contact members.

Cancel claim 7.

8. (Amended) The connector of claim [7] 1 wherein said non-conductive stops comprise a polymer.

9. (Amended) The connector of claim 8 wherein said [stops comprise silicon stops] polymer is silicone.

Cancel claims 11-15.

16. (Amended) A method for forming a connector comprising:
in a first molding operation, forming a first plurality of conductive elastomeric contacts such that the elastomeric contacts are captively retained within a corresponding first plurality of holes within a generally planar non-conductive substrate having said first plurality of holes arranged in a first array pattern and a second plurality of holes arranged in a second array pattern, said elastomeric contacts having an outer surface and opposing end surfaces; and

in a second molding operation, forming a plurality of non-conductive stops that extend through said second plurality of holes, said stops having opposing end surfaces and an outer surface, said elastomeric contact end surfaces extending from said substrate a distance greater than said stop end surfaces, each one of said stops being spaced from adjacent ones of said plurality of conductive contacts.

Cancel claim 17.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest a plurality of conductive elastomeric contact members mounted in respective ones of the first plurality of openings of the insulative substrate; a plurality of non-conductive stops mounted in respective ones of the second plurality of openings of the insulative substrate; and the elastomeric contact end surfaces extending from the substrate a distance greater than the stop end surfaces, each one of the stops being spaced from adjacent ones of the plurality of conductive contacts.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

tdt
05/11/04